



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: CQ10070

Hans-Peter FEUERBAUM, et al.

Date Allowed: December 29, 2003

Appln. No.: 10/031,001

Group Art Unit: 2881

Confirmation No.: 3856

Examiner: J. Berman

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: CHARGED PARTICLE DEVICE

COMMENT ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants have the following comment regarding the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

In the Statement, the Examiner says, "The prior art does not disclose a charged particle device comprising an objective lens having an optical axis and a particle mirror located on this axis but having a drift region positioned away from the optical axis of the objective lens or the geometrical center of the mirror." (emphasis added)

The underlined language appears in independent claim 14 of the present application, but not in independent claim 1 or in independent claim 19. The underlined language also appears in claim 3 which depends from independent claim 1.

Applicants infer that the Examiner intended to refer generally to the independent claims without combining limitations from those claims, and did not intend to combine claims 1 and 3,

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for example. Assuming that to be the case, Applicants have no objection to the Examiner's Statement. In any event, Applicants would note that the language of each allowed claim stands on its own.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2004

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Signed: Thea Wagner
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